

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 304964
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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: US, PK, IN, UR, FR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY

1. PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN, AT HIS REQUEST, CALLED ON THE SECRETARY DECEMBER 21, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER HAYAT MEHDI. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER AND COUNTRY DIRECTOR COON WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. THE AMBASSADOR REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED BACK TO ISLAMABAD ON CONSULTATIONS ALONG WITH THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADORS FROM FRANCE, CHINA, AND THE USSR. THEY NOT ONLY MET WITH CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN ISLAMABAD, BUT AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE CMLA, VISITED THE VARIOUS PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AND MET WITH THE LOCAL COMMANDERS. YAQUB-KHAN SAID HE CAME BACK WITH A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 304964

STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE MILITARY LEADERS WANT TO MOVE AS EARLY AS FEASIBLE TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. THIS VIEW WAS REINFORCED BY HIS VISITS OUTSIDE OF ISLAMABAD AND HE FELT THAT THE ARMY WAS COMMITTED TO THIS COURSE OF ACTION. HE NOTED THAT THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION WAS COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL AND THERE WAS NO ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION, WHICH HE FELT TO BE INDICATIVE OF

THE SUPPORT ENJOYED BY THE PRESENT REGIME FROM THE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL PARTIES. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED, HOWEVER,

THAT SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS REMAIN AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORTELL THE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS.

3. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE GOP TO PRESERVE PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE NOTED THAT WHILE BOTH COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THAT DIFFICULTIES EXIST, WE CAN TALK ABOUT THESE DIFFICULTIES AS FRIENDS. HIS GOVERNMENT WANTS TO TEMPER ANY DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE DESIRE TO ACT WITH RESTRAINT RATHER THAN IN PIQUE AND WISHES TO CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THOSE AREAS WHERE OUR INTERESTS CONVERGE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE CITED PAKISTAN'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION DESPITE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE PRESIDENT'S OMISSION OF PAKISTAN IN HIS TRIP TO THE SUBCONTINENT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT CERTAIN SOVIET PRESSURES ON PAKISTAN CONTINUE AND CITED THE TENSIONS IN SOVIET/PAKISTAN RELATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROBLEM OF SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS CARRYING MILITARY SUPPLIES TO ETHIOPIA. HE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PERMIT NON-SCHEDULED OVERFLIGHTS AND WILL REQUIRE THAT THE PLANES LAND IN KARACHI TO BE SEARCHED. HE NOTED THAT SOVIET REACTION TO THIS STAND HAD BEEN "RATHER ROUGH" AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 304964

THAT THE USSR AMBASSADOR HAD SAID "WE CONSIDER THIS A HOSTILE ACT AND IT WILL LEAD TO GRAVE CONSEQUENCES". NEVERTHELESS, PAKISTAN INTENDED TO RIDE IT OUT SINCE THIS REMAINS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

5. YAQUB-KHAN SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO RECALL AGHA SHAHI'S MEETING IN NEW YORK WITH THE SECRETARY AND TO REITERATE PAKISTAN'S APPREHENSIONS OVER THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO DELHI. THE GOP FEARS THAT INDIA WILL DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. ARE ATTENUATED. THE SECRETARY GENERAL HOPED THAT WE WOULD STRESS WITH THE INDIANS THE VITAL IMPORTANCE WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH TO OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED BY REITERATING HIS VIEWS ON THE SOVERIEGN EQUALITY OF ALL STATES ON THE SUB-CONTINENT AND THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. THE VISIT IN NO WAY CHANGES THAT RELATIONSHIP AND HE ASKED THAT THE AMBASSADOR ASSURE HIS GOVERNMENT ON THAT POINT.

6. YAQUB-KHAN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE FORTHCOMING VISITS TO INDIA BY LEADING SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN,

NOTING THAT THEY WERE NOT PLANNING TO STOP IN PAKISTAN. HE RECOGNIZED, OF COURSE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT COULD NOT DICTATE THE TRAVEL PLANS OF THESE LEGISLATORS. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER

AND MR. SOBER URGED THE AMBASSADOR TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE CONGRESSMEN CONCERNED. YAQUB-KHAN RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ALREADY DONE SO AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE ON THE HILL.

7. YAQUB-KHAN SAID HE WISHED TO CONVEY A REQUEST FROM THE CMLA WHICH HE CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE SPIRIT OF PAKISTAN'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE NOTED THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PAKISTAN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 304964

WAS NOT GOOD AND THE PRESENT REGIME WAS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RIGHT IT. THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF WE COULD PROVIDE ONE OR TWO ECONOMIC EXPERTS TO ADVISE PAKISTAN IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SPHERES BECAUSE PAKISTAN GREATLY VALUES U.S. OBJECTIVITY AND EXPERTISE. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, NOT WANT TO DUPLICATE THE WORK OF THE WORLD BANK BUT PERHAPS WE COULD DO SOMETHING TO COMPLEMENT THEIR ACTIVITIES.

8. YAQUB-KHAN STRESSED THE DEEP APPRECIATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR THE PL-480 WHEAT AND VEGOIL WHICH WE WERE PROVIDING UNDER PL-480 AND HE ALSO NOTED THE APPROVAL YESTERDAY OF CCC CREDIT FOR 150,000 TONS OF WHEAT. MR. MEHDI RENEWED THE GOP REQUEST FOR THE ADDITIONAL 150,000 TONS UNDER CCC CREDIT AND FOR THE VEGOIL WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

9. YAQUB-KHAN RAISED THE QUESTION OF DEBT RESCHEDULING NOTING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FELT THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE PARIS CONSORTIUM HAD NOT BEEN AS SUPPORTIVE AND HELPFUL AS THE GOP HAD HOPED. MR. SOBER AND MRS. COON NOTED THAT OUR POLICY WAS NOT DISCRIMINATORY AND NOTED THE U.S. POSITION THAT WE PREFER TO CONSIDER DEBT RESCHEDULING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CREDITOR CLUB RATHER THAN THE CONSORTIUM. WE COULD NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THE NEED FOR DEBT RESCHEDULING UNTIL WE HAD MORE DETAILS ON PAKISTAN'S SITUATION.

10. YAQUB-KHAN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE GOP'S PLEASURE OVER THE RECENT VISIT BY ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 304964

11. THE SECRETARY CONCLUDED BY ASSURING THE AMBASSADOR OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH HE CONTINUED TO ATTACH TO OUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND TO THE NEED TO BUILD CONSTRUCTIVELY ON OUR COMMON INTERESTS. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS HEARTENED BY THE AMBASSADOR'S ACCOUNT OF HIS CONSULTATIONS IN PAKISTAN. REFERRING TO THE MIDDLE EAST THE SECRETARY SAID THERE WERE SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS AND A

CHANCE OF SOME REAL PROGRESS BUT MANY PITFALLS REMAINED. THE AMBASSADOR WISHED HIM WELL IN HIS EFFORTS. VANCE

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